

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

728th Minutes of the Meeting
of the Board of Trustees
October 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kristin Appelget at 5:31pm via Zoom conferencing. In addition to the Chair, the following members were in attendance: Julie Blake, Eashwayne Haughton, Brianna Hill, Shannon Mason, Gregory Puliti, Scarlett Rajski, Aamir Rehman, and Deborah Preston (MCCC President). Also present was Mitchell Jacobs, College Counsel. Absent was Jacquelyn León, Daryl Minus-Vincent, and Mirian Lopez.

I. OPENING OF MEETING

A) FLAG SALUTE

Chair Appelget led those attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

B) STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATION

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting its interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Board of Trustees of Mercer County Community College has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Administration Building, on the West Windsor Campus, at the James Kerney Campus, on the College's website homepage, and emailed to The Trentonian and The Times.

C) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Puliti moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Trustee Mason and adopted with Trustees Appelget, Blake, Haughton, Hill, Mason, Puliti, Rajski, and Rehman voting aye.

D) PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the attending public addressed the board at this time.

II. FINANCE & FACILITIES MATTERS

Trustee Blake motioned for agenda item II (A) FY26-151 for ratification, which was second by Trustee Mason. The item was ratified with Trustees Appelget, Blake, Haughton, Mason, Puliti, Rajski, and Rehman voting aye.

A) APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL FACILITIES PROGRAM (Resolution FY26-151)

The members of the Board ratified the resolution FY26-151, which is attached.

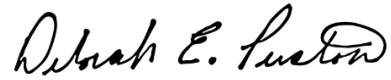
B) LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN (Resolution FY26-152)

The Board elected not to consider the resolution and voted to remove it from the agenda. Trustee Puliti motioned to remove resolution FY26-152 from the agenda, which

was second by Trustee Rajski, with Trustees Appelget, Blake, Haughton, Mason, Puliti, Rajski, and Rehman voting aye.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Blake moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Puliti and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deborah E. Preston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah E. Preston, Ph.D.
President, Mercer County Community College

**MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

RATIFICATION OF ACTION OCCURRING ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 (EFFECTIVE)

RESOLUTION FY26 - 151

APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL FACILITIES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Mercer County Community College seeks approval to apply for grant funds from the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education's (NJ OSHE) "Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund Act - Summer 2025 Cycle" Program's August 11, 2025 solicitation for certain capital facilities projects College-wide; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education's "Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund Act – Summer 2025 Cycle" grant funding will be used fund the cost, or a portion of the cost, of the construction, reconstruction, development, extension and improvement of instructional, laboratory, communication and research facilities, i.e. capital projects proposed by the College in the grant application ("qualified projects") and subject to approval by NJ OSHE; and

WHEREAS, Mercer County Community College has submitted a grant application/proposal to the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (NJ OSHE) within the required timeframe, including any deadline extensions that may be granted, if applicable;

WHEREAS, The College took action to submit the Grant Application on September 22, 2025 and the Board having formally ratified such action taken by the College at the next available meeting of the Board of Directors; and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mercer County Community College Board of Trustees has approved the application of funding from the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education's (NJ OSHE) "Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund Act – Summer 2025 Cycle" (HEFT) Program's August 11, 2025 solicitation of grant funding for certain capital projects at the James Kerney Campus in the amount of \$15,834.400.

Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund Act (HEFT) – Summer 2025 Cycle

RESOLUTION TEMPLATE FOR COUNTY COLLEGES

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE SUMMER 2025 CYCLE OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL FACILITIES PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDING FOR ONE OR MORE PROJECTS OF THE INSTITUTION AND AUTHORIZING ALL OTHER NECESSARY ACTIONS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Adopted: October 8, 2025 ratifying action taken by the College on September 22, 2025, and the Board on September 24, 2025

- WHEREAS:** On August 11, 2025, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (the “Secretary”) released a solicitation for grant funding (the “Summer 2025 Cycle”) under the Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-72 et seq. (“CIF Act”) and under the Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-49 et seq. (“HEFT Act”) (collectively, the “Higher Education Capital Facilities Program”); and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund (“HEFT”) grant program is to provide grants to New Jersey’s public and private institutions of higher education for the cost, or a portion of the cost, of the construction, reconstruction, development, extension, and/or improvement of instructional, laboratory, communication, and research facilities (N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-52); and
- WHEREAS:** Pursuant to the HEFT grant program, the HEFT grants are expected to be funded from the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds (the “Tax-Exempt Bonds”) to be issued by the Authority pursuant to the HEFT Act; and
- WHEREAS:** The deadline to submit a grant application (the “Grant Application”) for funding under the Summer 2025 Cycle of the Higher Education Capital Facilities Program is September 22, 2025; and
- WHEREAS:** Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-54(a), “the governing board of a public or private institution of higher education may determine, by resolution, to apply for a grant from HEFT. Upon adoption of the resolution, the board shall file an application with the Secretary of Higher Education, which application shall include a complete description of the project to be financed and an identification of any additional sources of revenue to be used”; and

- WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Mercer County Community College (the “Institution”) desires to approve the submission and form of a Grant Application to the Secretary for funding under the Higher Education Capital Facilities Program for the projects (each, a “Project” and collectively, the “Projects”) described on **Exhibit A** attached hereto (“**Exhibit A**”). Words used in the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, as the context may require; and
- WHEREAS:** The Board further desires to designate and authorize officers of the Institution to take all necessary and desirable actions to (i) submit to the Secretary a Grant Application for the purpose of providing funding for the Projects, (ii) obtain such other sources of financing for such Projects as may be necessary to complete such Projects, (iii) execute and deliver grant agreement(s) and such other documents and instruments as may be required to implement the grant funding, and (iv) undertake and implement the Projects; and
- WHEREAS:** The Board desires to approve the aggregate costs of the Projects paid and/or financed through all sources in an amount not to exceed the total amount set forth on **Exhibit A** with respect to such Projects; and
- WHEREAS:** The Board reasonably expects to reimburse expenditures for costs of the Projects paid by the Institution prior to the issuance by the Authority of the Tax-Exempt Bonds; and
- WHEREAS:** The Board desires to authorize the Authorized Officers (as defined below) of the Institution to accept grant funding for the Projects from HEFT and to make the certifications and commitments necessary to qualify the Projects for said grant funding from HEFT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth at length herein.

SECTION 2. The Board hereby authorizes the undertaking of the Projects described on **Exhibit A** attached hereto; approves the aggregate cost of such Projects, to be paid and/or financed through all sources in an aggregate amount not to exceed the total amount set forth on **Exhibit A** with respect to such Projects; authorizes the financing of all or any portion of the Projects with Tax-Exempt Bonds, commercial loans and other funds available to the Institution, as necessary and as further described in **Exhibit A**; acknowledges that should additional funding be needed to complete the Projects, such funding will be the responsibility of the Institution; and authorizes the submission and form of a Grant Application to the Secretary of Higher Education for grant funding of the Projects under the Summer 2025 Cycle of the Higher Education Capital Facilities Program.

SECTION 3. With respect to any Project that receives funding pursuant to the HEFT grant program, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 9A:15-1.3(b):

- the Board hereby certifies that the Institution has an up-to-date long-range facilities plan approved by the Board that includes provisions to address deferred maintenance and other capital renewal requirements and the Board hereby pledges to use the HEFT grant to advance that plan; and
- the Board commits to maintaining the facilities project funded by the HEFT grant; and
- the Board certifies that the Institution will use the HEFT grant funds for the cost, or a portion of the cost, of the construction, reconstruction, development, extension, or improvement of instructional, laboratory, communication, and research facilities.

SECTION 4. This Resolution is a declaration of the official intent of the Institution that the Institution reasonably expects and intends to reimburse expenditures for costs of the Projects paid prior to the issuance of the Authority's Tax-Exempt Bonds ("Applicable Tax-Exempt Debt") in accordance with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 and that the maximum principal amount of the Applicable Tax-Exempt Debt expected to be issued to finance costs of the Projects, including amounts used to reimburse expenditures for such costs paid prior to the issuance of the Applicable Tax-Exempt Debt is \$0.

SECTION 5. The Authorized Officers (as set forth in **Exhibit B** attached hereto) (each an "Authorized Officer") are each hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary and desirable action to submit to the Secretary a Grant Application for the purpose of providing funding for the Projects, to approve, execute and

deliver any and all agreements necessary, including but not limited to grant agreements, to undertake, implement and finance the Projects, and to approve, execute and deliver any and all other financing documents and instruments in the form approved by the Authorized Officers executing the same in the name of and on behalf of the Institution, in as many counterparts as may be necessary, and to affix or impress the official seal of the Institution thereon and to attest the same, and such execution and attestation will be conclusive evidence of the approval of the form and content of such agreements and other documents and instruments necessary to undertake, implement and finance the Projects and to pay financing costs including through the financing thereof. The Authorized Officers are further authorized and directed to do and perform such other acts and to take such other actions as may be necessary or required, or which may be deemed to be appropriate, to implement the purposes of this Resolution to undertake, implement and finance the Projects and to provide for the payment and/or repayment of the financing costs thereof.

SECTION 6. The Board hereby authorizes the Authorized Officers to accept grant funding for the Projects as may be awarded to the Institution as a result of participating in the Summer 2025 Cycle.

SECTION 7. All resolutions, orders and other actions of the Board in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution to the extent of such conflict are hereby superseded, repealed or revoked.

SECTION 8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately; and be it further resolved that no further approvals by the Board are necessary to implement this Resolution.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: October 8, 2025

DULY CERTIFIED: Deborah E. Preston, Ph.D. -MCCC President, Board Secretary

EXHIBIT A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Description:

1. Full HVAC System Replacement of James Kerney Campus Building, James Kerney campus (Trenton); and
2. Full HVAC System Replacement of Trenton Hall, James Kerney campus (Trenton).

B. Amount of HEFT Grant Request: \$13,156,159.00

C. Total Amount of Institutional Funds to be Provided (if any): \$2,678,241.00

D. Total Cost of Project: \$15,834,400.00